

Our 40 Day Journey to the Cross Monday Day 5

“Family, Friends, Sickness and Death”

Please Read John 11:1-16

Family John 11

1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

Lazarus of Bethany

‘Lazarus,’ the Greek form of the name Eleazar Which means **“God is my Help.”**

Jesus had a close relationship with this family. The Gospels record that Jesus felt comfortable in the home of Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus. The four weren't just acquaintances; they were close friends.

Jesus was at ease with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Their home at Bethany just outside Jerusalem, might have been considered Jesus' home away from home.

Martha and Mary Luke 10:38-42 NKJV

38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Commentators suggest that Martha was the oldest of the siblings.

Martha presided as hostess in Luke's account. She attended to serving the meal. She expressed a sense of disappointment that her sister had not been helpful enough in getting the meal together. "The narrative seems to suggest the home belonged to Martha and being older than Mary and Lazarus, she carried out the responsibility of all connected with household affairs.

When we visit friends and relatives we have a good idea of how they think and act. Jesus was no different. He appreciated the differences among His three friends and felt comfortable enough to offer constructive advice as to their priorities.

Again, God is glorified Through Our Trials

2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

4 When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

This sickness is not unto death:

V5 “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.”

Lazarus was already dead when Jesus said this, but He knew the end result would be the glory of God, not death. Jesus also knew that the events recorded in this chapter would set the religious leaders in determination to kill Jesus. This meant the end result would be that the Son of God may be glorified in His death and resurrection.

“The separate mention of the three persons is probably meant to put some stress on Jesus’ affection for each one individually. He did not simply love the family. He loved Martha and He loved Mary and He loved Lazarus.”

The individual love of Jesus towards these three is especially significant when we think of how they were different, both in their temperament and in their situations of life.

Delay is not Denial

6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

It seems strange that Jesus did not immediately act. The delay was probably troubling to the disciples and agonizing to Mary and Martha as it would be for us. It is clear that Jesus prolonged the sorrow of Mary and Martha. These were two more days of agonized grief for them. Jesus deliberately waited to bring Lazarus back from the dead until he had been in the tomb four days

7 Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

8 The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?”

9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.”

12 Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.”

13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.”

16 Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”